

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 FEA-02 TRSE-00 SCI-06

INT-08 OMB-01 CIEP-02 NEA-11 DRC-01 /141 W

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R 012144Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2610

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1037

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PINT VE

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSITION IN CHANGE OF VENEZUELAN
GOVERNMENTS: OIL

REF: STATE 11876

1. UNEXPECTEDLY, GONZALO BARRIOS, PRESIDENT OF ACCION
DEMOCRATICA (AD), TURNED UP AT LUNCH TODAY WITH THREE OF HIS
IMPORTANT COLLABORATORS. THESE INCLUDED THE PRINCIPAL
ECONOMIC WIZARD OF THE AD PARTY, GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ,
PARTY WHIP JAIME LUSINCHI, AND DAVID MORALES BELLO,
CAMPAIGN MANAGER OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, GONZALO BARRIOS AND HIS TEAM ARRIVED
WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT I WAS FULLY AWARE
OF THE ENGAGEMENT; AND OUR FRENCH COOK ROSE NOBLY TO THE OCCASION.

2. ON SUBSTANCE (REFTEL), I TOOK GONZALO BARRIOS
AND RODRIGUEZ ASIDE TO EXPLAIN THE REQUIREMENTS
OF OUR EXISTING STATUTE WITH REGARD TO COMMERCE WITH
CUBA AND SAID CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME
POSSIBILITY OF AN INNOCENT INFRINGEMENT OF THE STATUTE BY THE
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PRESENT VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT I THEREFORE
WISHED TO NOTIFY THE NEW RESPONSIBLE LEADERS THAT WE STILL

HAD THE STATUTE ON THE BOOKS.

3. I ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO GIVE GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ A COPY OF THE EIGHT POINTS AGREED UPON BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA FOR THEIR CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN MEXICO FEBRUARY 22-23. I SAID THAT I HOPED TO CONSULT WITH THE PRESENT VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT ON ITS VIEWS ON THESE POINTS, BUT SINCE I HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE ADECO PARTY WOULD ALSO BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEXICO MEETING I WANTED THEM TO KNOW THE AGENDA AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEFORE MY DEPARTURE (FOR LIMA ON FEBRUARY 7) ANY VIEWS THAT THEY MIGHT WISH TO PUT FORTH. THE ADECOS WERE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THIS ADVANCE NOTICE AND SAID THAT IF THEY HAD ANY OBSERVATIONS TO MAKE, THEY WOULD PROVIDE THEM BEFORE MY DEPARTURE.

4. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, I WAS TOLD YESTERDAY BY THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE, DIAZ BRUZUAL, THAT HE WOULD ACCOMPANY CALVANI TO MEXICO; AND TODAY I WAS INFORMED BY JAIME LUSINCHI THAT THE INCOMING ADECO PARTY AT THE MEXICO MEETING WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY HIMSELF AND (TO OUR PLEASED SURPRISE) LUIS ESTEBAN REY, POLITICAL COLUMNIST OF EL UNIVERSAL, WHO HAPPENS TO BE A PARTICULARLY CLOSE FRIEND OF BILL LUERS. LUSINCHI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ADECO REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE PERMITTED ACCESS TO MOST OF THE MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY, ALTHOUGH HE REALIZED THAT SOME OF THESE INTERVIEWS WOULD BE AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTERS ONLY.
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